

AGROTIPHILA GROTE, 1875 (INSECTA: LEPIDOPTERA):
PROPOSED TYPE-SPECIES DESIGNATION UNDER THE
PLENARY POWERS. Z.N.(S.) 1876

By D. F. Hardwick (*Entomology Research Institute, Canada Department of Agriculture, Ottawa*) and the late J. McDunnough (*Systematic Unit, Division of Entomology, Canada Department of Agriculture*)

This application is being submitted to the Commission in order to fix the type-species of *Agrotiphila* Grote, 1875, because the genus was based on a mis-identified type-species. This action will preserve the genus in the sense intended by Grote.

2. Grote, in 1875 (*Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. N. Y.* **11** : 108) erected the new genus *Agrotiphila* based on a male specimen collected by Theo. Mead in Colorado. Grote determined this specimen to be *montana* Morrison, 1875 (*Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. N. Y.* **11** : 95).

3. Morrison's original description of *Agrotis montana* was based upon two specimens which later were shown to represent distinct species (Hardwick, 1968, *Can. Ent.* **100** : 892). Smith, in 1891 (*Trans. Am. ent. Soc.* **18** : 133-135), being unaware of the identity of *montana* Morrison, described as new *Agrotiphila colorado* on the basis of specimens conspecific with one of Morrison's syntypes, and also as new *Agrotiphila rigida* on the basis of specimens conspecific with the other syntype. The specimen which Grote used for his type-designation of *Agrotiphila* represents that species which Smith named *colorado*. Smith also declared *staudingeri* Moeschler (1862, *Wien. ent. Monatsch.* **6** : 132) to be a synonym of *montana* and said '... there is no doubt at all that *staudingeri*, must replace *montana* in the Lists'.

4. However, in 1903, Smith (*Trans. Am. ent. Soc.* **29** : 204-205) stated that he had found a specimen of *montana* marked 'type', which he recognized as belonging to his own species *rigida*. From this he surmised that Morrison had had two distinct species in the original specimens, but that he had drawn his description from only one of them. Because of this, Smith designated this syntype as lectotype and stated that *rigida* was a junior synonym of *montana*.

5. Also in 1903, Hampson (*Cat. Lep. Phal. Brit. Mus.* Vol. **4** : 133) described the genus *Orosagrotis*, with *rigida* as type-species, after which he accepted that *montana* was a synonym of *rigida* and had priority over it. In the Addenda of the same Volume (p. 658), he did, however, state that *staudingeri* was not synonymous with *montana*.

6. In 1917, Barnes and McDunnough (*Check List Lepid. bor. Am.*) merely re-iterated what had gone before, synonymizing *montana* and *rigida* in the genus *Orosagrotis*. They also left *staudingeri* and *colorado* as distinct species within *Agrotiphila*.

7. In 1929, Barnes and Benjamin (*Bull. Brooklyn ent. Soc.* **24** : 164-186) stated that *Orosagrotis* (type-species *rigida*) was a junior synonym of *Agrotiphila* (type *montana*). They also described a new genus, *Agrotimorpha*, (type-species *Agrotis staudingeri* Moeschl.) and included *colorado* Smith among the species.

8. In 1947, McDunnough (*Can. Ent.* 79 : 38-39) showed that Grote's description of *Agrotiphila* was based upon a specimen of *colorado* and not *montana* (= *rigida*), thus attacking Barnes and Benjamin's action. On the basis of this misidentification McDunnough suggested that *Agrotiphila* Grote was a senior synonym of *Agrotimorpha* Barnes and Benjamin. Also he contended that *Orosagrotis* Hampson should be resurrected to include *montana*.

9. Thus it is, that since Grote misidentified *montana*, *Agrotiphila* was based upon this wrongly identified type-species and, in fact, *colorado* Smith is the true type-species of *Agrotiphila* in the sense intended by Grote.

10. Therefore the International Commission is requested to:

- (1) use its plenary powers to set aside all designations of type-species for the genus *Agrotiphila* Grote, 1875 and, having done so, to designate *Agrotiphila colorado* Smith, 1891 as type-species of that genus;
- (2) place the following generic names on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *Agrotiphila* Grote, 1875 (gender: feminine), type-species by designation under the plenary powers in (1) above *Agrotiphila colorado* Smith, 1891;
 - (b) *Orosagrotis* Hampson, 1903, (gender: feminine), type-species by original designation, *Agrotis montana* Morrison, 1875;
- (3) place the following specific names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *colorado* Smith, 1891, as published in the binomen *Agrotiphila colorado* (type-species of *Agrotiphila* Grote, 1875, see (1) above);
 - (b) *montana* Morrison, 1875, as published in the binomen *Agrotis montana* (type-species of *Orosagrotis* Hampson, 1903).